would it be possible for this taxation system to assist the process of improving the competitiveness of Indian industry.

Tax Evasion by HCL Group

77. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has recently conducted searches at the residences and official premises of HCL Group recently and recovered documents relating to tax evasion etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to check tax evasion by leading industries/business houses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The search was conducted on 24th January, 2002 and documents were seized. Investigation is in progress to determine the exact nature and amount of the tax evasion.

(c) Scrutiny of the returns of income, surveys and search and seizure actions are carried out by the Department to check tax evasion.

Bound Tariff Rates for Agricultural Commodities

78. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the bound rates of tariffs for agricultural commodities in the country as on 1st January, 2002 and up to what period India can continue with these bound rates;

(b) the current import duties on major agricultural products

like wheat, rice, oil seeds, edible oil, sugar and cotton as on 1st January, 2002;

(c) whether the domestic farmers are adequately protected with these import duties particularly cotton farmers; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by Government to protect the interest of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A Statement-I is enclosed, (*See* below)

(b) Statements II and III are enclosed, (*See* below)

(c) and (d) From time to time, steps are being taken by the Central Government taking into account various factors like prices, both domestic and international, production as well as import levels so as to provide adequate protection to the domestic farmers.

With a view to protect the domestic cotton farmers, the basic customs duty on cotton was increased from 5% to 10%, with effect from 9th January, 2002.

Statement-I

Bindings on major agricultural items as on 1.1.2002

Item description	Bound rates	Rates Bound upto which date
1	2	3
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS *I. Cereals and Pulses*		
Pulses	50/100	The rates are
Wheat (other than meslin)	80/100	bound till the next
Maize (Corn) seed	70	round of negotiations

1	2	3
Maize (Corn), if imported under TRQ upto an aggregate of 4,00,000 MT in a financial year	60	
Maize (Corn), if imports are not under TRQ	60	
Rice in the husk	80	
Husked (brown) rice; broken rice	80	
Semi-milled or wholly milled rice whether or not polished	70	
Millet, Jower, Sorghum	70 80	
Other cereals (rye, barley, buckwheat, canary seed etc.)	100	
II. Plantation crops		
Tea	150	The rates are bound
Coffee	108/150	till the next round of
Coconut, coconut desiccated	108	negotiations
Copra	100	
Spices	100/108/150	
Spices (seeds of caraway, thyme, bay leaves)	35	

1	2	3
III. Cereal products		
Atta	150	The rates are bound
Maida & Sooji	150	till the next round of
Wheat & potato starch	35	negotiations
Flour, meal and power of dried leguminous vegetables including sago, tamarind, and mango	150	
Other flours & starches	100/150	
Roasted malt	108	
Unroasted malt	40	
IV. Dairy products		
Fresh milk and cream	100	The rates are
Butter, dairy spreads and melted butter (ghee)	40/60	bound till the next round of
Cheese	40	negotiations
Milk powder upto 10000 MT under TRQ	60	
Milk powder outside TRQ	60	
Yogurt	150	
Natural Honey	108	
V. Fish, meat & Poultry		
Chicken leg (processed); sausages	150	The rates are
Chicken leg (raw, unprocessed)	108	bound till the next round of
Meat of poultry, not cut in pieces, fresh or chilled	108	negotiations
Meat of poultry, not cut in pieces, frozen	35	
Raw Hams, pig fat; meat of bovine animals	108/150	
Other meat & offal	108/150	
Processed Hams	55	
Fish	Unbound	

1	2	3
VI. Sugar	150	
VII. Horticulture		
Apples	50	The rates are
Grapefruit, prunes	25	bound till the next
Plums & Sloes, fresh	25	round of
Pears and quinces	35	negotiations
Oranges; lemons & limes; fresh grapes	40	
Almonds in shell	Rs. 35/- per kg.	
Fresh pomegranates, lichi, tamarind, custard apple	108	
Other Fruits	108/150	
Onions	108	
Shallots, fresh or chilled; leeks & other alliaceous vegetables, fresh or chilled	108	
Dried Onions, Mushrooms, other vegetables	35	
Peas	50	
Pulses (other than peas)	100	
Frozen vegetables-potatoes, beans, spinach, sweet corn etc.; Sweet potatoes	150	
Other edible roots and tubers with high starch or inulin content, fresh or chilled	150	
All other vegetables	108/150	The rates are
Arecanut	108	bound till the next
Hop cones (ground, powered, or inpellets)	75	round of negotiations

1	2	3
Hop cones (other than ground, powered, or inplellets)	108	
Planting materials of oilseeds, seeds of vegetable etc	105-150	
VIII. Edible oils		
Soyabean oil	45%	The rates are bound till the next round of negotiations
Palm Oil	300%	
Groundnut oil	300%	
Sunflower/safflower	300%	
Olive Oil	45%/40%	
Coconut Oil	300%	
Rape, coiza or mustard oil	75%	

Statement-II

Details of basic duty of customs on major agricultural products

Description of goods	Basic duty of Customs as on 01.01.2002
1	2
Wheat (other than meslin)	50%
Meslin	nil
Rice in the husk	80%
Husked (brown) rice; broken rice	80%
Semi-milled or wholly milled rice whether or not polished	70%

Oilseeds	35%
Sugar	60%
Cotton	5%

Statement-III

Duty Rate Structure on Vegetable Oils (Crude) of edble Grade as on 1.1.2002

	Basic customs duty	SAD	Total duty	
1.	Soyabean oil	45%	Nil	45%
2	Palm Oil (for other than manufacture of vanaspati)	65%	Nil	65%
3	Palm Oil (for other than manufacture of vanaspati)	65%	Nil	65%
4	Ground oil	75%	Nil	75%
5	Crude sunflower seed or safflower oil upto an aggregate of 1,50,000 MTs of total imports in a F.Y. (under Tariff Rate Quota)	50%	Nil	50%
6	Sunflower/safflower (not un de Tariff Rate Quota)	75%	Nil	75%
7	Coconut Oil	75%	Nil	75%
8	Rape, Colza or mustard oil	75%	Nil	75%

DUTY RATE STRUCTURE ON VEGETABLE OILS (REFINED) OF EDIBLE GRADE as on 1.1.2002

		Basic customs duty	SAD.	Total Duty
1	Soyabean oil	45%	4%	50.8%
2	RBD Palmolein	85%	4%	92.4%
3	Palm Oil	85%	4%	92.4%
4	Ground oil	85%	4%	92.4%
5	Sunflower/safflower	85%	4%	92.4%
6	Coconut Oil	85%	4%	92.4%
7	Rape, Cloza or mustard oil upto an aggregate of 1,50,000 MTs of total imports in a F.Y. (under TRQ)	45%	4%	50.8%
8	Rape, Cozla or mustand oil	75%	4%	82%

SAD means special additional duty of customs

Target for Market Borrowing

79. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) the target set during the last Budget for market borrowing;

(b) whether Government have overshooted the target for borrowing, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the reasons for not effecting cuts in expenditure matching the revenue slippage; and

(d) the reasons for the continuous falling value of the rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The acutal market borrowing (till date) is Rs. 127501 crore against Rs. 118853 crore estimated in BE 2001-02.